

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 237

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Isaac Hayes for his  
laudable contributions to tourism in the State of  
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly thank those artistic sons and  
daughters of Tennessee who have brought great acclaim to this State as a result of their talents,  
generosity, and determination; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessee artist could possibly be more deserving of such salutation  
than legendary singer, songwriter, musician, and Soul Man, Isaac Hayes, who recently  
partnered with the Tennessee Department of Tourism Development to promote Tennessee's  
attractions and destinations to audiences worldwide; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being one of the creators of the Memphis Sound while at Stax  
Records, Isaac Hayes is an innovative solo artist whose music combines elements of rhythm-  
and-blues, soul, and jazz to create a unique signature sound that identifies him as a progenitor  
of widely divergent genres, from disco to hip-hop; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this peerless musical legacy, he has also distinguished himself  
as one of the most influential and productive figures in African American culture today through  
his many good works in service of literacy and education across the globe; and

WHEREAS, born in the rural poverty of a sharecropper's family in Covington, Tipton  
County, Isaac Hayes sang publicly for the first time at an Easter ceremony at Saint Stephen's  
Chapel when he was only three years old; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Hayes attended a small schoolhouse in Rialto until third grade when  
he moved to Memphis; he graduated from Memphis Manassas High School in 1962 and soon

thereafter began playing dates as a keyboardist at the newest record label in town, Stax Records; and

WHEREAS, he quickly progressed from session player to a ubiquitous presence at Stax; collaborating with David Porter, Isaac Hayes penned, arranged and produced some two hundred soul standards in a very short period of time, including "Hold On! I'm Comin'," "I Thank You," the R&B Grammy award winning "Soul Man," "B-A-B-Y," "I Got to Love Somebody's Baby," "I Had a Dream," and "When Something Is Wrong With My Baby"; and

WHEREAS, as a result of that fruitful songwriting collaboration, Issac Hayes and David Porter, the infamous Soul Children duo, will be inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in its 36<sup>th</sup> annual induction in New York City on June 9, 2005, a recognition which acknowledges the talent and passion the men shared for writing some of the world's most memorable songs; and

WHEREAS, his work with Sam and Dave, Otis Redding, Booker T and the MGs, the Mar-Keys, the Bar-Kays, Rufus and Carla Thomas, and virtually the entire Stax roster was seminal in creating "The Memphis Sound" that transformed popular music; and

WHEREAS, had his musical legacy ended there, Isaac Hayes' first ballot selection to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame would have been assured, but instead he embarked upon a genre-bending career as a solo artist that continues to prosper and inspire today; and

WHEREAS, his impressive discography includes seven number one R&B albums and ranges from his 1967 debut *Presenting Isaac Hayes* and the landmark 1969 album *Hot Buttered Soul* to 1995's *Branded and Raw and Refined* and 2003's *Instrumentals*; and

WHEREAS, although he has produced many memorable songs and albums, Isaac Hayes is nearly universally identified with the 1971 soundtrack double album and musical score for the movie *Shaft* and the theme song single of the same name; and

WHEREAS, *Shaft* was the first album in history by a solo black artist to reach number one on both the pop and R&B charts, and Isaac Hayes was the first African American composer to win an Oscar for the Best Musical Score; *Shaft* also won a Golden Globe award and three Grammy awards; and

WHEREAS, during the succeeding years, Isaac Hayes has pursued a musical career that is second to none in innovation and influence on his fellow artists; his work has been sampled nearly 200 times by rappers and rockers alike; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Hayes has also distinguished himself as a talented actor, appearing in *Escape from New York*, *I'm Gonna 'Git You, Sucka*, and numerous other films and television shows; and

WHEREAS, he has bridged the generation gap and established himself as an icon for a whole new generation through his role as Jerome "Chef" McElroy, Cartman's favorite cafeteria worker on the animated television series *South Park*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hayes also played an instrumental role in the opening of Soulsville, the Stax Museum of American Soul Music, and is a persuasive fundraiser on behalf of the Stax Music Academy, a facility where he and others will develop and teach future Memphis musicians; and

WHEREAS, inspired by the kindness and concern shown for him by his teachers at Manassas High School, Isaac Hayes has long been dedicated to improving literacy, education, and promoting teaching initiatives; and

WHEREAS, a humanitarian mission to Ghana in the early 1990s resulted in Isaac Hayes' coronation as King for Development in the Ada coastal district of Ghana, where he is a member of the Royal Family; instead of resting on his royal laurels, he raised money to build a large educational facility in Ada called NekoTech that not only provides Internet access and education in reading, pedagogy, computer technology, and health, but also houses a chapter of the World Literacy Crusade; and

WHEREAS, believing strongly that literacy and education are the keys to freedom and prosperity, he founded the Isaac Hayes Foundation whose mission is to enable people around the world to become whole by promoting literacy, music education, nutritional education, and innovative programs that raise self-esteem among the underprivileged and teach young people how to study; he also serves as international spokesperson for the World Literacy Crusade, which currently has over 20 literacy programs in five countries with more than 1,800 participants; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Hayes is, without question, an accomplished musical artist, but he may be an even more valuable public servant, statesman, and citizen of the world; his many contributions to promoting literacy worldwide, his singular musical legacy, and his heartfelt endeavors to promote the State of Tennessee and its fine cities as worthy vacation destinations should be appropriately recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we thank Mr. Isaac Hayes for his invaluable contributions to tourism in the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we honor and commend Mr. Hayes for his myriad philanthropic efforts that he so humbly and selflessly performs throughout Tennessee and the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.